

when contracts could be denied. These include complaints filed by:

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission involving "alleged employment discrimination."

The National Labor Relations Board for "an alleged unfair labor practice."

The Labor Department "in a matter involving alleged violations of OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration)" rules.

Because the government could deny contracts based on suspicion and allegations, rather than proven charges, critics call this the "blacklisting regulation."

This could drive a wedge between Gore and one industry he claims to champion—the high-tech sector.

Nancy Saucier, manager of domestic policy for the [American Electronics Association], high tech's biggest trade group, said fighting this regulation is one of the [AEA]'s "top three" issues this year.

The Defense Department "is the largest purchaser in the world of high-tech products," Saucier said. "If (companies suddenly) found that they're winning only 50% of the contracts that they won before, due to these arbitrary determinations, it's going to affect their bottom lines incredibly." The rule will probably affect companies' share prices as well, she adds.

Saucier and others worry the rule will give perverse incentives for companies to dig up dirt on their rivals. Coxson notes that consumer and environmental groups and disgruntled employees could also present complaints to agencies in order to deny companies contracts.

Former OFPP head Kelman, now a professor of public management at Harvard, said he thinks the power to bar companies for suspected violations will only be used in "extremely egregious" cases.

He confidently predicted that "a contracting officer, given his lack of expertise, is going to be extremely reluctant to make a determination that's not based on a final adjudication." He also notes that companies can sue if they feel they've been wrongly denied a contract.

Attorney Karen Hastie Williams, head of OFPP under President Carter, strongly disagrees. The rule "can be the camel's nose under the tent in terms of coming up with arbitrary criteria to be used (against contractors)," she said.

A company unfairly denied a contract would have to go through costly lawsuits and still couldn't win back its bid, Williams says. These delays would end up costing companies and taxpayers.

Williams, who now represents companies that have contracts with the government, says contracting officers already have the power to review a company's legal history if it's relevant to the contract.

But this rule would open the door to punishing technical violations of complex rules, Williams says. In labor law, companies are often found guilty when they haven't followed procedures correctly. "Often there hasn't been any harm to anybody," she said.

The White House and Kelman call this rule a clarification of existing law. Williams and Coxson believe it does much more. They say the rule substantially amends procurement law and other statutes by adding a new penalty—denying contracts.

Coxson notes that in the 1970s and 1980s, lawmakers couldn't get provisions banning contracts for labor law violations through a Democratic Congress.

Prospects for getting this through a Republican Congress are even less likely. Rep. Charlie Norwood, R-Ga., who heads a subcommittee of the House Education and Workforce Committee, strongly opposes the rule.

An aide says Norwood may try to get lawmakers to overturn the rule.

Coxson says it may be unconstitutional, because Congress hasn't delegated this power to the White House. He and other lawyers also say it could violate the Constitution's "due process" provisions.

Business groups also worry about a part of the rule saying that contractors must have the "necessary workplace practices" addressing "worker retention." They say this could bar contracts to companies that lay off workers or hire striker replacements.

"Gore promised this," the Chamber's Johnson said. "He can tell organized labor he went forward, and then, if it dies, he can blame the Republicans."

## TRIBUTE TO FORMER LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR BOB BULLOCK

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Former Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock. The man I speak of today is so deeply entrenched in the political framework of Texas, that he has often been regarded as a legend in my home state.

Bob passed away on June 18th 1999, and the entire State of Texas mourns his death. But I stand before you today to salute his life. I am proud to say that Bob Bullock was a friend of mine, in both the personal and political arena. This man was renowned for having an explosive temper and striking fear into his opponents. Yes, he did have an iron fist, but a heart of gold as well. Mr. Bullock will be remembered as a man whose dedication to the state of Texas stood above all political agendas.

Bob Bullock began his career as a public servant in 1956, winning a seat in the Texas Legislature. I had the opportunity to serve with Bob when I began my service in the Texas House of Representatives in 1972, and the foresight to endorse him as a candidate for statewide Comptroller in 1974. Mr. Bullock held the office of Comptroller for 16 years, before being elected to the office of Lieutenant Governor in 1990.

He served the State of Texas as Lieutenant Governor until he chose not to seek re-election in 1998. As Comptroller and Lieutenant Governor, Bob Bullock influenced so much of the major legislation passed in Texas over the past two decades, that he has been considered a political giant. In fact, Governor George W. Bush paid tribute to Bob Bullock by calling him "the largest Texan of our time." Bob Bullock has reached legendary status because his political savvy allowed him to have a hand in nearly every major piece of legislation in Texas since the 1970's. Among Mr. Bullock's greatest accomplishments as Comptroller and Lieutenant Governor, were public education reform, water conservation, and performance reviews of state programs.

Bob Bullock has had to overcome nearly as many struggles in his personal life as in his professional life. Mr. Bullock had been plagued by health problems, fighting as vigorously against illness as he had against political opposition.

He won battles against depression, and alcoholism. He survived a heart attack and heart

bypass surgery. Bob was an inspiration to all, sustaining his vibrance in the political realm though in less than the best of health. Unfortunately, Bob Bullock's health problems eventually caught up with him. In his final days Bob lost the battle to lung cancer and heart disease.

Loved by some, but respected by all. He was one of the greatest legislators in the history of the State of Texas. The Lone Star will be forever indebted to this man or his vision, and his determination as a lawmaker. A longtime top aide of the former Lieutenant Governor affirmed that "he never forgets anything" and Texas will never forget Bob Bullock.

## A GREAT MAN WHO CONTINUES TO OFFER EACH OF US INSIGHT FOR THE FUTURE

**HON. JENNIFER DUNN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999*

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to notify the House of Representatives of a speech recently given by the former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich. In May, with the other Republican women Members of Congress I invited women from around the country to attend the second annual Republican Women Leaders Forum.

At the forum there were many speeches given, but one of the highlights was a speech given by Newt Gingrich on the morning of May 12, 1999. His speech was heard by over 1,000 women and received ten standing ovations. The speech moved me and many of my colleagues who were in attendance.

As the man who led us in capturing and holding a Republican majority in Congress for the first time since 1928, his comments continue to offer each of us insight for the future.

SPEECH OF NEWT GINGRICH, REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM, RONALD REAGAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER, WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 12, 1999

Thank you very, very much, and thank you Sue, [Myrick] and thank you Jennifer [Dunn] for inviting me and I also want to mention Mac Collins a colleague from Georgia who came by a few minutes ago. It was great to see him. This is actually the first serious policy speech I've made since stepping down as Speaker.

And I want to say, first of all, how grateful I am to be here. I had many offers, obviously, but what Jennifer Dunn has done in bringing together women leaders from all over the country is so important, and when she called me a couple of months ago, I said this was a date I would circle and be here.

And I'm honored to be here with all of you. And remember, those of you who were here last year, I revealed that—just as many of you are soccer moms. I was a ballet dad. [laughter] And so I think our concern for children our concern for how they grow up, we share a lot of that.

I also couldn't help but think as Sue was talking about the fact that the first two women to be officers of the House were under the Republicans. The Democrats had never had a woman as officer of the House. The first women to chair full committees were Republicans; the first time we had three women in the leadership was under the Republicans.